गुजराल विदेश नीति को बरकरार रखना

2526. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ल:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) 'गुजराल विदेश नीति' को किस हद तक बरकरार रखा गया है या सरकार ने इसे पूरी तरह त्याग दिया है;

(ख) इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने 'गुजराल विदेश नीति' और इस विषय में विदेशी मामलों में किये गये प्रयासों की समीक्षा की है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती वसुन्धरा राजे): (क) और (ख) भारत के विदेश संबंध सुस्थापित सिद्धांतों द्वारा निर्देशित हैं' जिन्हें व्यापक रूप से राष्ट्रीय मतैक्य प्राप्त है और ये दशकों से हमारी विदेश नीति के आधार हैं। तथाकथित 'गुजराल की विदेश नीति' उपर्युक्त सुस्थापित सिद्धांतों पर आधारित थी।

(ग) और (घ) सरकार नियमित रूप से स्थायित्व एवं निरन्तरता की मजबूत नींव पर आधारित विदेश नीति का लगातार मूल्यांकन करती है।

ISI Activities in Nepal

2527. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISI activities in Nepal worries India and Bengladesh;

(b) if so, the reaction of King in this regard when he visited the country recently; and

(c) whether Government propose to tighten vigilance on the border districts will Nepal to counter ISI activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Government are concerned about reports of misuse of Nepalese territory by Pakistani agencies for activities inimical to India's interest.

(b) The visit of the King of Nepal was essentially a ceremonial event as he was invited as Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations. Nevertheless, the visit did provide occasion for an overview of bilateral relations and exchange of views on matters of mutual interest, including the issue relating to reported ISI activities from Nepalese territory. Shared concern on this matter was also evident from the determination expressed by both sides to take urgent necessary steps to control misuse of the open border between the two countries.

(c) Efforts are being made with His Majesty's Government of Nepal to jointly coordinate measures, including tightening vigilance in contiguous border district with Nepal. The two countries are continuing cooperation in this field.

Indo-Japan Talks

2528. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the bilateral relations and global economic situation discussed during India-Japan talks on 18th January, 1999 and 15th February, 1999;

(b) the details of trade agreements finalised; and

(c) other mutually beneficial economic ties proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The sixth round of India-Japan Foreign Secretary Level Talks and the Fourteenth round of Commerce Secretary Level Trade Talks were held from 17-21 January and on February 5, 1999 respectively.

The Foreign Secretary Level Talks covered issues pertaining to bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The Commerce Secretary level talks discussed issues of commercial and economic importance for development of bilateral relations viz., review of the macro-economic situation and policies of both the countries, impact of the financial crisis in South-East Asian countries on the Japanese economy and trade and its consequent repercussions on our bilateral trade, current status and scope for increase in Indo-Japanese bilateral trade, apart

from discussion on stand of each country on multilateral trade and economic cooperation issues.

No specific Trade Agreements were concluded during these Talks.

Re-Opening of Stillwell road

2529. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Assam has proposed to reopen the Stillwell Road inking Assam with Myanmar and China, which has been lying unused since World War II; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon, indicating the regulations to be enfoced with opening of the road?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The proposal has been made so that another border trade point can be established between India and Myanmar. The subject of additional border trade points has been discussed with the Government of Myanmar. The Government of Myanmar has agreed in principle to the opening of additional border trade points as may be notified by mutual agreement pending which, it has been decided to first ensure the smooth functioning of the Moreh-Tamu border trade point in the Manipur sector.

Third Country Mediation to Improve Indo-Pak Relations

2530. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to improve Indo-pak relation;

(b) whether some countries have offered their services to mediate between both the countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) Government desire to build a relationship of peace, friendship and cooperation with Pakistan. This was reiterated by Prime Minister during his landmark visit to Lahore in February 1999. The Lahore Declaration, the Memorandum of Understanding and the Joint Statement, which were issued during Prime Minister's visit, seek in their totality to build confidence and trust, put in place a stable and comprehensive structure of cooperation and address outstanding issues through a process of direct, bilateral and composite dialogue. There is no place in this process for any third-party involvement of any kind whatsoever. This view is known to the international community.

Indian people Settled in Kenya

2531. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian people settled in Kenya at present;

(b) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Economic Times on 27th January, 1999, under the heading 'Illegal immigrants fuel unrest against Kenya Indians';

(c) if so, the the details thereof and whether the matter was taken up with that Government for the protection of Indian settlers; and

(d) if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The total number of people of Indian origin settled in Kenya is estimated to be about 100,000. Out of these, approximately 10,000 are Indian passport holders.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The article carried reports of recent attacks on and arrest of some people of Indian origin in Kenya, The matter was suitably taken up with the Government of Kenya.

(d) The Government of Kenya has assured full protection to all people legally residing in the country including people of Indian origin. The detained Indian persons have since been released.